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From: Judi Friedman <jfriedeco@aol.com>
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY to ettestimony@cga.ct.gov

Energy and Technology Committee in support of Bill SB 570, AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC SAVINGS AND FIXED BILL FEES AND RELATED BILLS CAPPING THE FIXED CHARGE FOR CUSTOMERS OF ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES, submitted by Judi Friedman, chairperson of PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR CLEAN ENERGY (PACE)

Co-chair Doyle, Chair Reed, Committee Members and staff, my name is Judi Friedman. I am the chairperson of PACE (PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR CLEAN ENERGY), a nonprofit Connecticut clean energy organization of 3000 members and friends. I cannot express to you how strongly our members and friends feel about the fixed distribution rate issue. I have not spoken to anyone in the last weeks who is not appalled by the high residential fixed charges of EVERSOURCE Energy.

Since 1973 our organization has been showcasing facilities that use renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation. We have witnessed the exciting explosion of interest in clean technologies that affect our health, our pocketbooks and our businesses. To raise fixed electric rates is murder. It kills the incentive to invest in energy efficiency and local clean power. High electricity costs that are independent of efficiency or renewables also affect the poor. In other words we are penalizing those customers who use less energy because they live in small homes or are taking advantage of the wonderful options that now exist in Connecticut for saving energy.

I strongly urge you to lower and cap residential and small business fixed charges. I am very impressed that California capped residential fixed charges at \$10.00 two years ago. I urge Connecticut to be a NORTHEAST LEADERSHIP STATE! Our utilities cost recovery should be based on how much electricity the customer uses so that the wealthy or greedy person who doesn't care about this issue will pay more, and the smaller consumer will be rewarded for saving energy.

Perhaps one of our problems is that we get our electricity from a company that is interested in profit and not from a public institution that cares about health issues, a solid and competitive business environment and a safe grid. Connecticut must modernize our

energy system so that it is not brittle and vulnerable to storms, breakdowns and terrorism but instead uses smaller systems that incorporate renewables and energy efficiency, helps to create local green jobs, and rewards those customers who practice clean energy goals.

Sincerely,
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